




The logo features a yellow sunburst above a purple graduation cap. To the left, the text 'Graduation Matters Montana' is written in a stylized, blocky font, with 'opi.mt.gov' below it. To the right, the number '101' is written in a large, purple, sans-serif font with a purple underline.

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Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent
opi.mt.gov



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Education in Montana

- Montana has great public schools – our students regularly score in the top 10 in math & reading, and tied for first place last year in science
- 1,500 Montana students drop out each year: *that's too many* and 58% of our high school graduates go on to college: *that's too few*
- American Indian students drop out of school at three times the rate of white students



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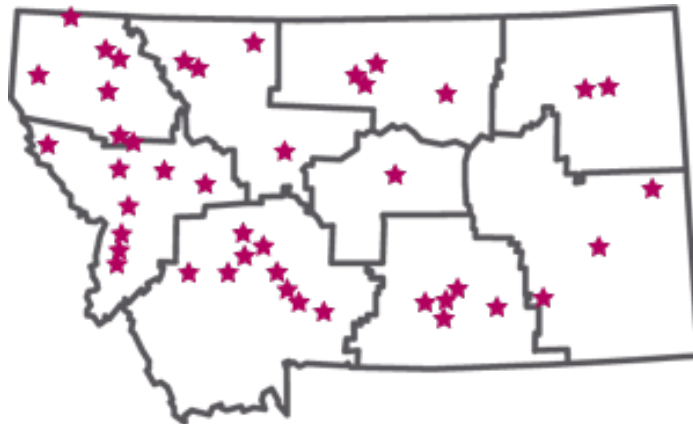


GMM Objectives

- 1:** Increase the rate of Montana students graduating from high school ready for college and the 21st century workforce
- 2:** Establish a support network between schools, businesses, and community organizations for student success
- 3:** Create school-based and community-based opportunities to inspire students to stay in school and graduate



Graduation Matters Across Montana!





Encouraging local GMMs

Locally-designed & implemented GMM initiatives with best practices of what works in Montana

To date, 43 communities and over 75% of Montana high school students attend school in a district that is launching or has launched a Graduation Matters Montana initiative:

Missoula, Bozeman, Great Falls, Butte, Helena, Billings & Kalispell

Thompson Falls, Hardin, Anaconda, Townsend, Browning, Libby, St Ignatius, Hamilton, Belgrade, Corvallis, Lewistown, Livingston, Polson, Stevensville, Columbia Falls, Box Elder, Miles City, Pryor, Rocky Boy, Wolf Point, Laurel, Lame Deer, Frazer, Heart Butte, Lincoln, Eureka, Arlee, Cut Bank, Glendive, Hot Springs, Lockwood, Three Forks, Boulder & Whitefish



What the research shows...

academic integration – students are aware of their own academic strengths, are actively engaged in relevant learning experiences, and share

responsibility for their education with a caring adult

social integration – students have a strong sense of belonging to school life through involvement with one or more social groups or through connections made by caring adults, and have a voice in appropriate school administrative decision making

targeted interventions – identify who needs what





We're making progress

GMM Communities **are leading the state in increasing the graduation rate**, from 80.7% in 2009 to 84.4% in 2013

The dropout rate has decreased from 5.0% in 2009 to 3.6% in 2013. **772 fewer students** dropped out in that time.

Yet we know there is still more work to be done



The Four Steps to GMM

- 1: Convene a multi-stakeholder team**
Existing school-based team (incl. students & family)
Community organizations that share mission of family wellness
Main street business that care about strong economy/community
- 2: Know Your Data**
Multi-year trend data on how many, who, when students drop out
Engage school, students & community in data-driven discussion
- 3: Make a Plan**
Based on what is already working locally and in Montana
- 4: Build Public Support**
Posters, Pledges, Media





What's working

Engaging student voice Great Falls, Hardin, Thompson Falls, Lincoln, Miles City

Rapid credit recovery & early identification Kalispell, Stevensville, Hardin, Corvallis

Freshman transitions/academic coaches/advisories Browning, Columbia Falls, Miles City, Livingston, Stevensville, Bozeman

College preparedness Rocky Boy, Anaconda, Hardin, Thompson Falls, Hamilton

Community collaboration Anaconda, Missoula, Havre, St. Ignatius, United Way affiliates



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Graduation Rates Continue Upward Climb

Wednesday, February 5, 2014

On February 4, the Office of Public Instruction released the [2013 Graduation and Dropout Report](#) at a celebration with Graduation Matters communities, corporate partners and supporters. This year marks the beginning of the fourth year of Graduation Matters Montana. From 2009 to 2013, Montana's graduation rate has increased from 80.7 percent to 84.4 percent, and the dropout rate has decreased from 5 percent to 3.6 percent. This means that 772 fewer students dropped out in 2013 than in 2009.

Through the work of local Graduation Matters communities, hundreds of students' lives have been changed for the better. When you take a statewide view of the efforts to raise graduation rates and improve college and career readiness, you can see that the economic future of Montana will be forever impacted as a result of local communities and schools working to make graduation matter.

